

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus for the preparation of an electrochemical sensor comprising a sensor head in order to provide the sensor head with an electrolyte and a membrane, the apparatus comprising a holder holding means for the sensor, a dispenser means for ~~dispensing~~ the electrolyte and a dispenser means for ~~dispensing~~ the membrane, wherein:

the holder, the dispenser for the electrolyte and the dispenser for ~~holding means~~, means for ~~dispensing the electrolyte and means for dispensing~~ the membrane are arranged within a common housing that is able to be handheld with the housing comprising a housing upper part and a housing lower part being mutually displaceably mounted in a direction of displacement, the housing upper part being capable of being moved by hand in a direction of displacement;

the holder holding means is fixedly arranged with respect to said common housing, with the housing lower part comprising an opening where the opening leads to the holder to engage the electrochemical sensor;

the common housing further comprising an actuator actuating means which is displaceably mounted; and

the dispenser means for ~~dispensing~~ the electrolyte and the dispenser means for ~~dispensing~~ the membrane are displaceably mounted with respect to the holder holding means and supply the electrolyte and membrane to the sensor by manually moving the ~~actuating means~~: actuator, with the actuator comprising a plurality of plungers capable of either linear or rotational movement in connection with the actuator, wherein:

a first plunger releases electrolyte from a container opened by pressure exerted on the actuator so that electrolyte is applied to the sensor head; and

a second plunger by pressure exerted downwardly on the actuator releases the membrane with a pressing surface that reproducibly displaces the electrolyte with the

plungers being moveably perpendicular to the direction of displacement.

2. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the dispenser means for dispensing the electrolyte and the dispenser means for dispensing the membrane are arranged within a common carrier insertable within said common housing.
3. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the dispenser means for dispensing the electrolyte is positionable with respect to the holder holding means such that the electrolyte is able to be supplied to the sensor held in the holder holding means and the dispenser means for dispensing the membrane is able to be positioned with respect to the holder holding means so that the membrane is able to be connected to the sensor held in the holder holding means.
4. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the dispenser means for dispensing the membrane is to dispense the membrane such that the membrane is able to be secured to the sensor head with a reproducible pressing force.
5. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the dispenser means for dispensing the membrane includes at least a pressing body including at least a pressing surface, wherein the pressing body is arranged such that the pressing surface contacts the membrane during the dispensing of the membrane in order to displace electrolyte located between the membrane and the sensor head in such a way that the sensor connected to the membrane has a reproducible layer thickness of the electrolyte, between the sensor head and the membrane.
6. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1 comprising an element a means for cleaning the sensor head wherein the element means-for cleaning-of the sensor head is displaceably mounted with respect to the holder holding means, and wherein the element means for cleaning the sensor head is able to be so positioned with respect to the holder holding means so that the element means-for cleaning mechanically cleans the sensor head of the sensor held in the holder holding means.

7. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, comprising an element ~~a means~~ for the removal of a membrane, the element ~~means~~ for the removal of a membrane being displaceably mounted with respect to the holder ~~holding means~~, and wherein the element ~~means~~ for the removal of the membrane is able to be positioned with respect to the holder ~~holding means~~ such that after the removal of a used membrane the sensor is able to be supplied to the holder ~~holding means~~.

8. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least the dispenser ~~means~~ for the dispensing of the electrolyte and the dispenser ~~means~~ for the dispensing of the membrane are secured to a common carrier, and wherein the element ~~means~~ for the cleaning and the element ~~means~~ for the removal of the membrane are secured to the common carrier.

9. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, said housing upper part and said housing lower part comprising a housing base and a housing cover wherein the holder ~~holding means~~ for the sensor is arranged in the housing base.

10. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 9, wherein the housing base and the housing cover are each designed as a half shell which form a common inner space for the reception of at least the dispenser ~~means~~ for the dispensing of the electrolyte, the dispenser ~~means~~ for the dispensing of the membrane, an element ~~a means~~ for the cleaning of the sensor head and an element ~~a means~~ for the removal of a membrane.

11. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 10 wherein the housing base and the housing cover are releasably connectable to one another.

12. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 10, wherein the actuator ~~actuating means~~ has an operative connection to at least one of the dispenser ~~means~~ for dispensing the electrolyte, the dispenser ~~means~~ for dispensing the membrane, the element ~~means~~ for the cleaning of the sensor head and the element ~~means~~ for the removal of a membrane in order to bring about a force and/or a movement on at least one of the dispenser ~~means~~ for dispensing the electrolyte, the dispenser ~~means~~ for dispensing the membrane, the element ~~means~~ for the cleaning of

the sensor head and the element ~~means~~ for the removal of a membrane via the actuator ~~actuating means~~.

13. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 12, wherein the actuator ~~actuating means~~ is displaceably mounted essentially in the vertical direction with respect to the housing cover.

14. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 8, wherein the common carrier is formed as an exchangeable part.

15. (Previously Presented) A common carrier for the handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, comprising at least one container filled with electrolyte and a membrane.

16. (Currently Amended) The common carrier in accordance with claim 15, comprising an element ~~a means~~ for cleaning the sensor head and an element ~~a means~~ for the removal of the membrane.

17. (Previously Presented) The common carrier in accordance with claim 15, comprising a first connection part which defines an axis of rotation and wherein the container and the membrane are arranged spaced apart in a peripheral direction with respect to the axis of rotation.

18. (Currently Amended) The common carrier in accordance with claim 17 wherein the element ~~means~~ for the removal of the membrane, the element ~~means~~ for cleaning the sensor head, the dispenser ~~means for the dispensing of~~ the electrolyte and the dispenser ~~means for the dispensing of the~~ membrane are arranged following one another in the peripheral direction.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for the manual preparation of an electrochemical sensor with a handheld apparatus to provide a sensor head of said sensor with an electrolyte and a membrane, said handheld apparatus comprising a common housing that is able to be handheld, with the housing comprising a housing upper part and a housing lower part movably coupled, an actuator ~~actuating means~~ manually accessible comprising a plurality of plungers, capable of either linear or

rotational movement in connection with the actuator, a holder holding means and a common carrier comprising at least a dispenser means for dispensing the electrolyte and a dispenser means for dispensing the membrane, the method comprising:

securing said sensor in the holder holding means by moving the sensor through an opening in the housing lower part, wherein the holder holding means is fixedly arranged with respect to said common housing housing lower part and wherein the dispenser means for dispensing the electrolyte and the dispenser means for dispensing the membrane are displaceably mounted with respect to the holder holding means;

manually moving the common carrier by movement of the housing upper part in a direction of displacement in relation to the housing lower part to position the dispenser means for dispensing the electrolyte above the sensor head;

applying a force with said actuator actuating means onto the dispenser means for dispensing the electrolyte to supply the electrolyte to the sensor head, wherein a first plunger releases the electrolyte from a container opened by pressure exerted on the actuator;

manually moving the common carrier to position the dispenser means for dispensing the membrane above the sensor head; and

applying a force with said actuator actuating means onto said dispenser means for dispensing the membrane to supply the membrane to the sensor head, wherein a second plunger by pressure exerted downwardly on the actuator releases the membrane with a pressing surface that reproducibly displaces the electrolyte, the said applying the force moves the second plunger in a direction perpendicular to the direction of displacement.

20. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 19, wherein the membrane is supplied to the sensor head with a reproducible pressing force defined by a spring in order to reproducibly displace electrolyte present between the membrane and the sensor head in such a way that in each case a reproducible layer thickness of electrolyte arises between the membrane and the sensor head.

21. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 19, comprising removing a original membrane from the sensor head, cleaning the sensor head, supplying the electrolyte to the sensor head supplying the membrane to the sensor head, all in a compulsory guided manner.

22. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 21, wherein the compulsory guided manner takes place in such a way that the sensor is secured within the common housing and that individual steps at the sensor are compulsorily guided by rotation of a part of the common housing.

23. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the dispenser means for dispensing the membrane includes at least a pressing body including at least a pressing surface, wherein the pressing body is arranged such that the pressing surface contacts the membrane through movement of the second plunger directed by hand force applied on the actuator during the dispensing of the membrane in order to displace electrolyte located between the membrane and the sensor head in such a way that the sensor connected to the membrane has a reproducible layer thickness of the electrolyte, and has a uniform a layer thickness of the electrolyte, between the sensor head and the membrane.

24. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 10 wherein the housing base upper part and the housing cover lower part are releasably connectable to one another by a mutual rotary movement.

25. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 8, wherein the common carrier is formed as a disposable part.

26. (Currently Amended) The common carrier in accordance with claim 15 comprising a first connection part which defines an axis of rotation wherein the container, the membrane, an element ~~a means~~ for cleaning and an element ~~a means~~ for the removal of the membrane are arranged spaced apart in a peripheral direction with respect to the axis of rotation.